

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P - MR. SISCO

S/S-O: L. MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 130975

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN VISIT

REF: DAMASCUS 2024

1. YOU SHOULD CONVEY WORD TO PRESIDENCY THAT WE ARE PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT ASAD HAS AGREED TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT HE SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS. PRESIDENT ASAD'S REPRESENTATIVE WILL, OF COURSE, MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD AS WELL AS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

2. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO ANNOUNCE SYRIAN VISIT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN, WHO IS COMING FOR TALKS JUNE 11-12, IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION OF LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO. WE WOULD SUGGEST ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE THIS COMING MONDAY, JUNE 9 AND, IF SYRIANS AGREE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING NAME OF SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR INCLUSION IN OUR ANNOUNCEMENT. WE ENVISAGE ANNOUNCEMENT BY DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN BE
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ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE: WE HAVE INVITED PRESIDENT

ASAD OF SYRIA TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO WASHINGTON FOR
TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON
FRIDAY, JUNE 20, AS PART OF THE CONSULTATIONS WE ARE

PRESENTLY HOLDING WITH GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION AND
HAS INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT ASAD'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR
THESE TALKS WILL BE . CLOSE QUOTE.
YOU SHOULD MAKE TEXT OF FOREGOING PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT
AVAILABLE TO PRESIDENCY AND ASK IF IT IS AGREEABLE TO
THEM. KISSINGER

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NNN

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